



# Niobrara State Park 2014 Activity Schedule

For additional information please call the park office at 402-857-3373.

**May 24 - September 1**

## Horse trail rides

Mon. - Thu. ~ 9:30 & 10:45; Tue. ~ Closed; Fri. - Sun ~ 9:30, 10:45am, 1:00, 2:15, 3:30 pm. 50-minute ride, NO doubles. Rides can be scheduled one day in advance. \$16 per person; ages 6 and up.

**June 7 - August 3**

## Swimming pool 402-857-3710

Swimming passes are available. Daily Admission: Adults (13 & older) \$4, Children (3-12) \$3, 2 & under FREE. Open 1-6 PM August 4 - August 31 Weekends only subjected to lifeguard availability

**June 14, July 5  
12, 19, August 30**

## Buffalo cookouts and entertainment

Cookouts are held on select Saturday evenings, unless otherwise noted. Programs are free and open to the public. Cookout meal will start serving at 6:00 p.m., programs will follow immediately after serving. To sign up for buffalo cookouts, guests must register and purchase tickets at the park office before the cookout. There is a cut-off limit and sign up time (noon on Sat.), so sign up early. Minimum 25 persons required to hold cookouts. Adults (13 & older) \$12; Children \$8. No cookouts on the following dates: May 24, 31, June 7, 21, 28, July 26, August 2, 9, 16, and 23.

**May 9  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

## Park 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Outdoor Educational Rendezvous

Open to schools, teachers, students, parents and guardians who would like the opportunity to experience the great outdoors with hands on activities. Stations will include Fish Tanks, Casting and Knot Tying, Fishing the Trout Pond, Horse Rides, Birds, Furs, Skulls, Fur Trapping, S'mores Making, Pellet Gun, Ashfall Fossil Beds, National Park Service, Archery, Sling Shot, Living History, Grasslands, Wetlands, Bugs, Pheasants, an Eagle's Nest and much more. Educators please contact the park office to sign up. Rain Date: Friday, May 16, 2014.

**May 24  
6:30 PM**

## John & Susan McNeill with a musical performance in the RV campground

John & Susan McNeill reside in Springfield, South Dakota. Playing music has been their consuming pastime for many years, Susan on bass and John playing guitar. Country music is their principal repertoire. They have a cache of songs they have written investigating South Dakota and Nebraska history which will eventually be recorded in a 10-CD set. Come and join them as they share their music with us. Please bring a chair along to the program.

**May 25  
10:00 AM**

## Sidewalk chalk art at park office, participation prizes

**May 25  
7:00 PM**

## National Park Service campground program\*

**June 7  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

## National Park Service outdoor event

**June 13  
7:00 PM**

## National Park Service campground program\*

**June 14  
6:00 PM**

## Buffalo cookout at shelter, National Park Service program- "Let Me Go Home!"

Political intrigue and courtroom drama! He was just a Nebraska farmer who wanted to return to his homeland, but Chief Standing Bear found himself in the middle of a precedent setting federal court case. Follow the Ponca Tribe's trail of tears and relive the courtroom drama that followed.

**June 14  
8:00 PM**

## National Park Service Program - "Nature at Night/Night Sky" at the Cookout Shelter

What kind of critters and celestial sights appear as the sun sets? Join a Park Ranger and discover a whole new world of nature after dark!

**June 15  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Father's Day fishing tournament

Come and enjoy a morning of fishing with family and friends, prizes will be awarded for biggest fish and most caught. Register your team at the park office. Loaner fishing poles and tackle will be available.

**June 27  
7:00 PM**

## National Park Service campground program\*

**July 5  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

## National Park Service outdoor event

**July 2 - 13**

## Water Aerobics

**July 5  
6:00 PM**

## Buffalo cookout at Group Lodge, Humanities Nebraska Program: "Woody Guthrie: Re-envisioning 1930s America" by Kathryn N. Benz and Mike Adams

Not only is Woody Guthrie a significant figure in the history of American folk music, but he has also become a cultural icon representing the paradoxical complexity of American identity. Guthrie's songs and writing embrace the brashness of the pioneer spirit, a compassion for the underdog, and the often contradictory nature of American diversity. Through lecture and song this program, designed for adults and high school students, describes the American culture of the 1930s, including the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl.

*\* National Park Service Program Information will be posted throughout the park the week of the program.*

**July 6**  
10:00 AM

**Sidewalk chalk art at park office, participation prizes**

**July 12**  
6:00 PM

**Buffalo cookout at shelter, Humanities Nebraska Program: "Music Of The Plains" by David Marsh**

Pioneers who settled the Plains traveled from far and wide, yet endured many similar joys and hardships. David's goals with this program are twofold: 1) to demonstrate the various cultures represented by these courageous folks and 2) to share stories and sing songs that arose out of their common experience of early life here. Though music, audiences learn about homesteading, cowboys, children's games and the wonders of the wide open prairie.

**July 18**  
7:00 PM

**National Park Service campground program\***

**July 18 - 20**

**Becoming an Outdoors Woman ~ Niobrara/Missouri River kayaking trip**

Beyond BOW is designed to teach more advanced skills. The small group atmosphere enables one-on-one instruction that achieves safety, education, and personal assurance in a non-threatening environment. Contact Julie Geiser [julie.geiser@nebraska.gov](mailto:julie.geiser@nebraska.gov), 308-660-6955 or Dina Barta [dina.barta@nebraska.gov](mailto:dina.barta@nebraska.gov), 402-890-6463 for more information.

**July 19**  
6:00 PM

**Buffalo cookout at shelter, Humanities Nebraska Program: "Nebraska's musical smorgasbord: music from various ethnic groups in Nebraska" by Chris Sayre**

This program explores the rich diversity of folk music that has been a part of Nebraska's history from the time was a territory to the present day. Performing on the button accordion, concertina, dulcimer, guitar, mandolin, musical saw and zithers, Sayre invites his audience to experience the music of the ethnic groups that have called Nebraska home.

**July 26**  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**Kite day at the 1<sup>st</sup> parking lot in the 3-mile tent camping loop.**

Bring your favorite kite along or borrow one from the park. Fun for all ages.

**July 26**

**The City of Niobrara will be hosting "Desperado Days" this weekend**

**August 2**  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**National Park Service outdoor event**

**August 8**  
7:00 PM

**National Park Service campground program\***

**August 8 - 10**

**Ponca Tribe of Nebraska powwow**

**August 9**  
10:00 AM

**Waterfowl hunting/water safety class at swimming pool**

Bring your chest waders, hunting gear, etc.. and practice water safety in a controlled environment. You will be submerged with chest waders.

**August 29**  
7:00 PM

**National Park Service campground program\***

**August 30**  
5:00 PM

**Buffalo cookout at Group Lodge, Humanities Nebraska program: "The Forts of Nebraska" by Jeff Barnes**

Nebraska's forts were among the first, last and most important on the Great Plains, built to promote trade, to protect travelers and settlers, to fight the Indian tribes and then to keep the peace. During that time, they hosted some great names of American history, including Buffalo Bill Cody, Crazy Horse, George Custer, Robert E. Lee, Red Cloud, and Mark Twain. Barnes tells the story of Nebraska's 12 military forts and what today's visitors will find at the sites.

**August 31**  
10:00 AM

**Sidewalk chalk art at park office, participation prizes**

**September 4**  
4:00 PM

**Niobrara Verdigre Cougars cross country invitational**

Hosted by Niobrara State Park.

**September 6**  
Registration: 7:00 PM  
Race: 8:00 PM

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Night Owl 5K run / walk**

Register with Niobrara State Park 402-857-3373, \$15 early registration fee; \$20 day of event. Pre-registered participants will receive a t-shirt. Participants must mark the desired size when registering. Following the race, there will be an awards ceremony. Spectators and participants are invited to enjoy a post-race party in the town of Niobrara at the WFLA hall with a meal, music and refreshments. Registration forms may be downloaded at: <http://nightowl5kniobrarastatepark.weebly.com/>.

*\* National Park Service Program Information will be posted throughout the park the week of the program.*